

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Wednesday, 24th July, 2013

*The Senate met at the Kenyatta International
Conference Centre at 9.00 a.m.*

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura) in the Chair]

PRAYERS

QUORUM CALL AT COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, hon. Senators! Could we determine if we have a quorum?

(The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura) consulted the Clerk-at-the-Table)

Hon. Senators, I am informed that we have a quorum. We should now be able to proceed with the business for today morning.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM NYANDARUA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Hon. Senators, before we proceed with business this morning, I wish to acknowledge the presence of some visitors. I heartily welcome them to the Senate. Allow me, hon. Senators, to introduce to you a delegation of County Assembly Members from Nyandarua County Assembly who are seated at the gallery. Of, course, that is the county represented by our colleague, Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki Karue. The delegation is led by the Nyandarua County Assembly Majority Leader, Hon. James Mwangi Gichuki

As I proceed to introduce the rest of the delegation, I request that if an hon. Member's name is called out, he or she should stand up and be acknowledged in the normal tradition of Parliament and of this Senate. We have the following 11 visiting hon. Members from Nyandarua County, over and above the Majority Leader:-

1. Hon. Peter Githinji, Ngumba, Minority Leader
2. Hon. Sylvestus Kagiri Mwangi
3. Hon. John Githinji Mwaniki
4. Hon. Joseph Mumba Gichini

5. Hon. David Ngige Ndirangu
6. Hon. Kariuki Muchiri
7. Hon. Paul Maina Nderitu
8. Hon. Peter Njoroge Kairu
9. Hon. Sammy Douglas Kamau
10. Hon. Samuel Kimani Njiraini
11. Hon. Samuel Mwangi Thuita

Feel welcome and I hope you enjoy the proceedings of the Senate.

(Applause)

Next Order, please.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE NATIONAL VALUES AMONGST YOUTH

Sen. (Dr.) Kuti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, cognizant of the provisions of Article 11 (1) of the Constitution that recognizes culture as the foundation of the nation and as the cumulative civilization of the Kenyan people and nation; further aware that Article 11 (2) (a) states that the State shall promote all forms of national and cultural expressions through literature, the arts and traditional celebrations, among other forms; noting that traditional institutions used to play an essential role in molding the character and morals of young people and with their decline the country has experienced moral decadence; noting further that the institutions supporting communal practices such as rites of passage; further aware that Article 10 of the Constitution sets out the national values and principles of governance; concerned that lack of systematic and institutionalized cultural programmes has led to erosion of diverse cultures and weakening of the societal fabric posing a serious risk to nationhood; the Senate urges the national Government to develop national programmes to recognize and celebrate her people at birth, upon graduation from nursery, primary and secondary schools, in order to promote national values of patriotism, cultural diversity, rule of law, participation of the people, democracy and nationhood amongst children and young people.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Thank you, Senator.
Sen. Haji.

COMPENSATION OF COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY PERENNIAL FLOODING IN TANA DELTA

Sen. Haji: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to give notice of the following Motion:-

THAT, noting with concern that during the rainy season, Counties along the Tana River experience frequent flooding that causes displacement of many people and destruction of food and cash crops as well as loss of irrigation engines and other equipment thereby impoverishing very vulnerable communities; aware that most of the damage is caused by water overflow and spillovers occasioned by negligence from the main reservoir at Masinga dam which is owned by the Kenya Electricity Generating company (KenGen), the Senate urges the Government to take measures to eliminate this perennial danger and to compensate communities that have been displaced or otherwise adversely affected by the water released from dams in the Tana Delta.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Thank you, Sen. Haji.
Next Order.

MOTIONS

SETTING UP OF MODERN ABATTOIRS BY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

THAT, aware that the pastoralist areas account for the largest proportion of livestock production in Kenya estimated to consist of 81 percent indigenous cattle, 92 percent of sheep, 93 percent of goats, and 99 percent of camels; further aware that livestock is the economic mainstay and source of livelihood for the populations in these areas; noting that it has potential to reduce unemployment especially among the youth by supporting livestock based industries; concerned that this economic potential in production remains untapped while the areas continue to lag behind other parts of the country in development; recognizing the renewed Government commitment to transform livestock production; cognizant that livestock products enjoy an insatiable market both locally and abroad; further aware that value addition would enhance marketability and returns from livestock; the Senate urges the respective County Governments to prioritize and urgently set up modern abattoirs and related facilities to stimulate livestock production and business.

(Sen. Lesuuda on 23.7.2013)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 23.7.2013)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Hon. Senators, yesterday, when we adjourned at 6.30 p.m., Sen. Kajwang was on the Floor and he still had five minutes to conclude his contribution.

Proceed, Sen. Kajwang.

Sen. Kajwang: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity to complete my contribution on this very important subject of livestock. In fact, we have sometimes called this “the livestock” industry, but we have not invested sufficiently to be proud to call it so. In fact, it is an industry that has thrived by itself sometimes without any Government support or intervention. I do not know of any industry in the world that can thrive if we do not put our money and effort in developing it. I have looked at budgets come and go. My brother, Sen. (Dr.) Kuti was once the Minister for Livestock sometime ago. He put in a lot of effort. I remember that when we were faced with a drought where animals were dying in North Eastern Province, he even bought hay to take there. He moved some animals to be slaughtered at the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) to save, at least, some wealth. Some animals died before they reached the slaughterhouse.

It was a terrible sight watching animals die with some hay which they could not even consume because they were too weak to consume it. That was a very sad situation. But this happens almost perennially, when we have a cycle of drought. We do not seem to learn anything from that. We destroy a lot of wealth. In fact, it looks like this country is one of the richest countries in the world. We usually can project that, for example, this year we will experience drought and we are likely to face devastation of our animals. It is like a huge bank account going into smoke as we watch. We do not seem to feel it. In fact, if somebody stole Kshs10 million from Barclays Bank of Kenya, it would be big news in the Cable News Network (CNN). But if animals die in their thousands in North Eastern Kenya, nobody seems to bother about it. It seems that we are either reckless or careless about our wealth. Probably, this is why we are still poor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we must invest in this industry. I hope that the new Minister and his able supporters in his department, especially the one in charge of the livestock docket will do a few things. First, animals cannot survive without water. I have just listened to the notice of Motion that has been given by Sen. Haji which has indicated that as a result of flooding, water sometimes displaces us from our homes. But the only way of solving this issue is to dam the water. We should just buy some equipment and put them to good use. We do not seem to want to do this.

I visited Turkana County with Sen. Munyes some time back, of course the problem then was the border with Sudan. But we were also looking at issues affecting animals. The animals travel long distances into Uganda in search of water. Why does this happen? Ugandans have dug several dams at the border. They collect that same water which we could collect, and we move there to use their water at the risk of tribal clashes. This just shows how careless we are. I do not think Uganda has more money than Kenya. It is only that they have put an effort and they have a vision.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. (Dr.) Machage!

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Mheshimiwa Bw. Naibu Spika, nashukuru kwa wasaa ulionipa ili nitoe mawazo yangu kwa Mswada huu, haswa wakati huu tukiwakaribisha marafiki zetu kutoka Nyandarua. Wafugaji hawatoki kaskazini mwa Kenya tu; wafugaji wanatoka sehemu nyingi zingine. Kwa mfano, sehemu kubwa katika Kaunti ya Migori ni ya wafugaji. Karibu theluthi mbili ya eneo lililokuwa likitwa Nyanza wakati huo ni sehemu za wafugaji. Mikoa ya Kati, Bonde la Ufa na hata sehemu za Mombasa na Pwani, sehemu kubwa ni ya wafugaji. Lakini inadhihirika na kukubalika kwamba wafugaji wanatoka katika sehemu za kaskazini mwa Kenya tu, ambayo sio desturi nzuri na sio

ukweli kabisa. Wanajaribu kuwadunisha wafugaji kuwa watu wachache sana nchini ili kusudi wasipate mapato na kupewa haki zao kutoka kwa uchumi wa Serikali.

Nafikiri kwamba katika Kenya nzima, zaidi ya nusu ya watu ni wafugaji. Tukisema kuwa ufugaji sio ng'ombe na ngamia tu; kuna mbuzi, kondoo, kuku, samaki na kadhalika. Lakini huu ni uchumi ambao kwa kweli, haujatiwa maanani, kama vile Sen. Kajwang alivyosema. Alitoa mfano wa hivi majuzi, ng'ombe walipofariki huko kaskazini mashariki mwa Kenya kichinjioni. Hata hivyo, mizoga hii ilianguka tu na wakasahau kwamba katika hiyo mizoga ya ng'ombe kulikuwa na ngozi yenye thamani kubwa. Ngozi hii ingechunwa na kuleta uchumi mkubwa nchini, lakini mali hii iliwachwa ikaangamia na kuzikwa. Hiyo ni aibu!

Viwanda vya ngozi tangu wakati wa Uhuru vilikuwepo---

Sen. Haji: Hoja ya nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Haji, what is your point of order?

Sen. Haji: Hoja ya nidhamu yangu ni kwamba; je, ni sawa kusema kwamba ngozi ya mnyama aliyekufa itolewe halafu iuziwe watu? Hicho ni kitu haramu!

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Is that a point of order, Sen. Haji?

(Laughter)

Sen. Haji, ngozi ya ng'ombe aliyekufa ni haramu namna gani?

Sen. Haji: Bw. Naibu Spika, nafikiri *butchery* zote za Kenya na sheria za nchi hii zinasema kwamba wanyama lazima wachinjwe; na kama hawakuchinjwa, ni haramu!

(Laughter)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. (Dr.) Machage?

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Bw. Naibu Spika, sitaki kuingilia sera, desturi na haki za dini ya Sen. Haji. Ni haki yake kufikiria hivyo, lakini najua kwamba Waislamu ni asilimia kumi na tano tu katika nchi ya Kenya, ilhali asili mia 85 ni watu wa dini nyingine – Wakristo na kadhalika – kwa hivyo, hao bado wangepata haki yao kwa uchumi huo. Sio kwamba kila ngozi itolewayo lazima iuziwe Muislamu.

(Laughter)

Sen. Haji: Hoja ya nidhamu, Bw. Naibu Spika.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Haji, what is your point of order?

Sen. Haji: Mwenzangu anaweza kudhibitisha vipi kwamba Waislamu ni asili mia 15? Ni vizuri alete ushahidi wa kutosha au aondoe hayo maneno yake.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): I think the point being made here – I do not want us to get unnecessarily deeper into this issue – I think the only issue that Sen. (Dr.) Machage needs to deal with is whether or not the hide of a dead carcass can be used commercially. I think that is the issue that Sen. (Dr.) Machage is making. I do not know whether that is *haramu*, but I think that is the point he is making.

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Bw. Naibu Spika, waheshimiwa wenzangu husafiri sana; hivi majuzi ametoka Uingereza akanunua viatu. Je, aliuliza ngozi hii ilitoka wapi? Yeye alivaa kiatu mara moja!

(Laughter)

Hon. Senators: That is a good one!

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Lakini sasa, hayo ninayosema ni ya kweli; kama huyataki, ni sawa, kwa sababu pilipili usiyoila yakuwashiani?

Twataka hivi viwanda vijengwe kila mahali, haswa tuangalie uchumi utokanao kwa ngozi. Sio vizuri – ama niseme sio halali – sisi tukiwa wafugaji walio na mifugo wengi, kuona raslimali yetu ikipotea, halafu twaagiza viatu kwa bei ghali kutoka nchi za nje. Huo ni ujinga, ubaradhuli, ukosefu wa hekima na kadhalika. Lazima tugutuke na tujue kwamba kuna sehemu nyingi ambazo tunaweza kutoa mifugo mingi yenye afya nzuri inayoweza kuchinjwa ikiwa bado hai ili Waislamu pia wafurahi.

Katika sehemu za Nyanza, kama Lambwe Valley, tuna taabu ya Mb'ung'o – wadudu wanaouma ng'ombe na kuwapa maradhi ya usingizi. Serikali imeweka hili jambo kando; haliangaliwi kwa maanani na twapoteza mifugo mingi sana. Hizo ni sehemu ambazo ukiondoa tu kile kipande ambacho kina sehemu ya wanyama, sehemu nyingine hazina watu; sehemu ambazo zingetumika kufuga mifugo. Lakini hata hivyo, sisi tunajulikana kweli kama watu ambao wanaopoteza raslimali kiholela holela. Kwa mfano, Ziwa Victoria limejaa maji tele yanayotumika huko Misri na kadhalika, wakitumia mkataba uliowekwa wakati huo wa ukoloni. Ethiopia wamegutuka na wameanza kutumia raslimali ya maji yao ilhali sisi bado twasema “bado twafuata mikataba hiyo!”

Kwa nini maji hayo yasitekwe, yavutwe kwenye mifereji mpaka sehemu za juu halafu yawachwe yateremke yenyewe bila ya kutumia mashini? Maji haya yakiwekwa katika maeneo makubwa ya muinuko ya Bonde la Ufa katika sehemu za Kisii, yatatiririka bila mashini katika Nyanza nzima kunyunyizia mazao na manyasi yalioko. Tutapata mazao ya hali ya juu; na sio mazao ya kulima ya nafaka tu, bali pia mazao ya Wanyama wetu; ng'ombe, kondoo, mbuzi na hata ngamia wafugwe huko na watakua. Hili jambo lililoletwa katika Mswada huu – ingawa simuoni hapa mwenye Mswada – ni jambo zuri. Huu ni mpango ambao ukitekelezwa na ukifuatiliwa kwa dhati, waweza kuinua uchumi wa Kenya tukawa na raslimali ya kuweza kujenga maeneo yetu ya Majimbo yaliyoanzishwa Kenya hii. Ni jambo la kuzingatiwa kwamba wafugaji wapewe viwanda vya kila aina; sio viwanda vya ngozi tu, bali pia viwanda vya kuchinja mifugo na kufadhili nyama. Hatutaki wawe wanachinja tu na kuanza kusomba mizoga kuleta Nairobi ili iuzwe; twataka nyama hiyo iwekwe ndani ya mikebe---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, Sen. (Dr.) Machage! Your time is up.

Sen. (Dr.) Machage: Bw. Spika, nakushukuru na naunga mkono Mswada huu.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki.

Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me a chance to contribute to this very important Motion. I do not know how accurate the statistics quoted in the Motion are, but presuming that they are accurate, it would mean that our country is losing sight of a very important industry which, over the years, I think

the economy has ignored. This looks like it dates back to the colonial days when some areas of this country were designated as being high potential areas while others were designated low potential areas. After Independence, I think we just swallowed the whole agenda of the colonialists as it was from the beginning and we went on. We forgot our brothers in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs). If it is true, in fact, that over 80 per cent of our livestock is actually in those areas, then a mistake has been made in those areas and we need to correct it. We have funds for crops like coffee, cotton, tea and this or that, but we do not have one for livestock!

An hon. Senator: Correct!

(Applause)

It is about time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that we paid attention to the development of livestock. Never mind the wording that the mover of the Motion; I think we need to look at the livestock from a wider angle. Where I come from, we have livestock but it is primarily for milk production. But we still do generate animals which are also for meat--

Sen. (Dr.) Kuti: On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki: I think I do wish to be informed.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. (Dr.) Kuti.

Sen. (Dr.) Kuti: I am very grateful for the way Eng. Muriuki has grasped the history of livestock, but I would just like to inform him that, currently, there is the Kenya Livestock Enterprise Development Fund, which already received Kshs150 million last financial year. The board has already been set up and I think it will now start operations.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki: Thank you very much for informing me. I think the former Minister is very informed, although I must add that I think Kshs150 million to cover all the areas under livestock is very small. What we are now talking about as a Senate is that, it is our job to make sure that the county governments actually operate.

Anyway, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my point is that, I think we need to go beyond looking at only the abattoirs. I think we should also look at this; when the animals come from the pastoralist areas and they die while waiting to enter the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC), for example, what happened? Why, first of all, are they bringing livestock in such large numbers at a go? Maybe it is because they are not able to sustain themselves where they are coming from. I am not convinced that we are unable to organize pasture and water for these areas so that we do not have to bring them here by force. We should not force them to bring their livestock because they do not know what to do when the dry season comes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are also aware---

(Loud consultations)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, Senators! Could you, please, consult in lower tones and listen to the Senator for Nyandarua?

Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki: Yes, and listen to the Senator for Nyandarua talking on behalf of the ASALs---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki! Please, proceed!

(Laughter)

Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we now do have, for example, an area like Turkana; it is true that we have found oil as Kenyans, and we are very happy that Turkana is now hopefully going to change. But the same Turkana has also recently discovered water; and we did not know that. Recently, we have also discovered that Turkana has a lot of water underground. This discovery came only because Kenyans got interested in the place because of the oil; if there was no oil, we would not know what lay underneath Turkana. So, it looks like we need to do a little bit more work so that all these ASALs – maybe they are not so arid if we looked downwards, perhaps there is water everywhere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, recently, this House did pass a Motion to create disease free zones. This is another area which is a problem to people who depend primarily on livestock because when they try to export meat to first world countries, they are not able because they say our animals have diseases. This should be looked at broadly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not convinced that the county governments cannot build abattoirs unless they are told to do so by the Senate. I would like to take this opportunity to challenge county governments wherever they are not to wait to be told what to do. They should be able to gauge what they need for their economy.

Last but not least, before I sit down, I would like to take this opportunity to urge the Mover of this Motion to go beyond the Motion and bring a Bill so that we have these abattoirs in every county and not only in arid and semi-arid areas. Even where I come from, we also need an organized abattoir. So, I urge the Mover of the Motion to go further and bring a Bill so that we have these abattoirs in an organized way and we do not have to take our animals to the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) and see them dying for no good reason.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Sen. (Dr.) Kuti: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very essential Motion for the pastoralists and all the livestock rearing communities of Kenya. When we were contributing to the disease free zone Motion, I explained a bit of history where the livestock sector was more organized during the colonial era and partly during the first Kenyatta Government. In the 1980s the rains started beating us, when IMF introduced structural adjustment programmes when our economy was at its lowest, whereby certain government sectors had to be done away with or turned to communities and privatized. Unfortunately, at that time livestock was separated from crop and labeled as a non-essential sector. Therefore, it was turned to the communities. The impact was that the livestock sector fell apart including immunization, hiring of veterinary doctors and paravets, artificial insemination and the institutions that were training vets, including Kabete University were least funded. This led to the decline in the industry.

It is during the time of the Kibaki Government in 2003 to last year that, actually, the livestock sector was looked at and vets started being hired. Prior to this, all institutions like the New Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC), the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) and all the research institutions were not funded and therefore, all

had collapsed but during this period they were revived. We started looking at how we can move forward. The dairy sector in those ten years made a major progress from 2 billion litres in 2002 to 6 billion litres per year last year where we surpassed our local consumption and were able to export about 2 million litres every year.

The beef sector had major challenges because KMC was far away and this is where I congratulate Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki when he said that we need to do abattoirs, as did the Mover of this Motion. Where coffee is grown the factory is placed within reach and so is for tea but for meat, KMC is far removed from where the animals are being reared. Therefore, animals have to be transported all the way to Nairobi. The disaster you saw where animals died at the gate of KMC is because the factory is far away and it was the only one actually. Right now we have a programme which I am hoping the Jubilee Government is moving on with, where there are ten export abattoirs. I want to make this very clear to Sen. (Eng.) Muriuki, because he said that we need to have abattoirs everywhere. There are specific abattoirs; there are local and export abattoirs. Export abattoirs have to meet certain standard specifications. There are check lists for phytosanitary standards. It is very expensive to put up one and if you meet all those standards, then it means you can export from that abattoir. I think the Mover is talking about such abattoirs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a concept I left because we may have abattoirs but the local people do not have the network to export the meat. So, we have devised a system where the communities have to form co-operatives and then an investor who has a market network is attracted to the abattoirs where the local people are charged with the responsibility of the necessary husbandry and input to bring their livestock to the quality that is required by the market. The investor then will partly own the abattoir. So, the marriage is made between the co-operative formed by farmers and the investor. This is also augmented by having international airports like the one in Isiolo. We are going to open the one in Isiolo in August. This will be an example on how to run these abattoirs well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding dairy farming, it is not about expanding volumes. What we realized in areas like Kabianga and other milk producing areas is that there is cluster economy developing around this milk cooling plants. There are other inputs that develop alongside like fertilisers, artificial insemination and so on. In a place like this, small shopping centres come up and you will find the economy of that community around that cooling plant growing. This includes bars where *wazees* go when they get money from the milk. They do not go to drink in Eldoret but Kabianga and the money circulates, thereby developing the economy. This is a new and important trend in livestock that the Jubilee Government will need to invest in more so that this is replicated in other places and the rural economy can take off.

I think every household in Kenya has some form of livestock whether it is chicken, cow or goat, therefore if we focus thoroughly on livestock, I think it is the most appropriate way to address poverty and also to create wealth across the country.

Sen. (Dr.) Zani: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. I want to start by commending Sen. Lesuada for bringing up this very important sector again for discussion. Unfortunately, going by the figures that have been given in the Motion, and I agree with Sen. (Dr.) Machage that livestock is found everywhere in the country, but if we go by Sen. Lesuada's figures, they show that

for pastoralist areas, a little bit of more effort needs to be put in. This has been a neglected sector especially among pastoralists. It could be something that is historical or it could be the difficulty that social scientists have faced in understanding pastoralism and what it means, the migration patterns and coming up with development agenda that is going to work for them.

So, there are certain dynamics that come in by having pastoralist driven into the background of our economy. That still does not exempt the importance of looking at that particular sector which is key. There is no single household that does not benefit from something from the livestock, be it meat, dairy products and so on. We all benefit in one way or another and especially in the export sector, marketing of Kenyan meat is really in the forefront. I remember Sen. Lesuuda, as she was moving this Motion, saying that Kenya has the sweetest meat because it is has not been added hormones but it is authentic. I think we have a lot of capacity there.

Some statistics give the Kenyan livestock contribution of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at about 10 per cent and 42 per cent of total agricultural output which is very commendable. This cuts across all the various sectors. It accounts for a very high proportion, up to 30 per cent of marketed agricultural outputs, especially in the form of exports. So, this is not something that we should take for granted.

I have heard other speakers before me talking about the need for coordination and the need for ensuring that abattoirs are taken to a higher standard. We were there before the structural adjustment programme. The key downturn of structural adjustment programmes is that there was something about cost-sharing in the key sectors. I remember even in the education and health sector, that is, when all the progress that had been made had a down turn and people began to move backwards. This also raised some queries, especially in the field of development, the role of international players in coming up with policies for this country and the need for us to also question those policies before implementing them even when they have a monetary implication.

The earnings from foreign exchange are mainly from export of live animals, skins and hides, and that is why Sen. Lesuuda talked about the importance of value addition. I was coming from Naivasha the other day and I saw the hides being sold along the road. There are people who are going to take that hide, make it better, improve on the colouring and sell it a far higher price. There is also the issue of middlemen who are able to gain more from that trade. We also have livestock breeders and we also have dairy products which are key in terms of exports.

What is important and what has also been mentioned in the Motion is the role it plays in employment. Various Motions that we have discussed in the last couple of weeks touch on this key issue of employment, especially among the youth. If we think about pastoralism even in terms of training and preparation, maybe the level of preparation is not high, but the employment value is huge and is potentially there. So, if it is possible, we should ensure that we improve in this particular sector then, indirectly, we will be solving all the other problems that have to do with unemployment of the youth. When we think about employment we are thinking about the level of herding but also at the level of industries, at the level of preparing materials for exports and at the level of having abattoirs where we shall have skilled people.

More than 60 per cent of livestock is found in arid and semi arid lands (ASAL) and employs 90 per cent of the total population in those areas. Therefore, this has to be

encouraged among the arid and semi arid areas. There are other issues that need to be looked at. Issues such as unemployment are critical. Issues such as drought make pastoralism and taking care of animals more complicated. That makes sure that the productivity is not at the point where livestock keepers can gain.

This is an area that remains untapped for various reasons. The question is; why has livestock been ignored? I will position that it is not the livestock sector alone that has been ignored but also the whole agricultural sector. There is an importance to the agricultural sector in the sense that 80 per cent of our population resides in the rural areas and engages in some form of agriculture, including livestock rearing. However, when it comes to policy formulation, investments, technology and monies that are put into agriculture, those levels are still very low. Investment levels being very low has not allowed farmers to exploit the latest technology, keeping diseases at bay, ensuring that livestock remains are put into use. There is need for commitment to reform this sector. For there to be a change in policy, that commitment needs to be put into place.

Sen. Lesuuda's idea that abattoirs be put in every county is very noble. I support the Motion. This will ease the whole process of getting cattle to the abattoirs. By decentralizing these abattoirs in each of the counties, this will make it easier to get the cattle there faster and probably curtail the spread of diseases. This will avoid congestion. We also need to discuss the level of those abattoirs. What sort of structures will they have? What sort of structures will they have? Other than looking at it in terms of abattoirs in specific counties, we need to broaden and think not only about the abattoirs but the level of coordination within the agricultural sector. How can all the key players be coordinated and play a role to improve the agricultural and livestock sector?

Going by the statistics and the data that Sen. Lesuuda has given us, this is something that needs to be taken into consideration and a lot of thought put into it.

Thank you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM BUNGOMA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, Senators. Before the next Senator contributes, Sen. Billow, I would like to make another communication. Today we have many visitors.

I interrupt our business to acknowledge county assembly members from the County Assembly of Bungoma who are seated at the gallery. As you know, that is the county represented by our colleague, Sen. Moses Wetangula, who is at the moment out on official business. That is why he is not here. I hope that our colleagues from Bungoma will take note of that. This delegation is led by the hon. Speaker, John Makali.

I will introduce the other Members who are here and as I do so, I will request them to stand in the normal tradition of Parliament so that our Members can acknowledge you. Owing to lack of space in our gallery in this temporary Senate Chamber, the delegation is divided into two. I would like to inform you, hon. County Assembly Members of Bungoma, that this is a temporary Chamber for us. Next time you visit us, you will find us in a proper Senate Chamber. I will interrupt the Senate again to introduce the first group. This group is made up of 11 Members.

Hon. Rosemary Khisa
Hon. Ben. Manaswa Wafula
Hon. Tindi E. Manase
Hon. James Mukhongo
Hon. Charles Wamukota
Hon. Benson Mukonda
Hon. Gershem Namasake
Hon. Nathan Obwana
Hon. Julius J. Wanjala
Hon. David Fwaro
Hon. Moses Wambile.

I hope you will enjoy our sessions in the short time you will be here.

Sen. Billow: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I support this Motion which, I agree with my fellow Senators, is very important.

Pastoralism is a way of life. The focus of this Motion is on pastoralism and not just livestock. Pastoralism as a way of life is largely misunderstood in this country and in other parts of the world. We are not simply talking about people who keep livestock in their farms. We are talking about people who keep animals in public grazing lands like in North Eastern Province and other areas. These are people whose animals are mobile and live nomadic lives. Those are the people we are talking about in this Motion.

For the last 50 years since Independence, successive Governments have ignored the pastoralist communities, their way of live and their livelihoods. I will be giving reasons to that effect. There is no doubt that the arid and semi arid area of this country where pastoralism is the mainstay represents, at least, 80 per cent of the land mass in this country. Livestock contributes about 15 per cent of the GDP. If this is exploited, there is no doubt in my mind, that we can expand that GDP significantly. When you have 80 per cent landmass that can support livestock and we do not use it, then we miss an opportunity to expand our GDP.

An interesting thing I want to mention is that the consumption of beef, globally, is expanding faster than any other food product. They say that the demand for beef expands by 20 per cent annually in the world. This is due to the largely increasing middle income growth in many parts of the world. When your income increases, you plan to have beef on your table.

An interesting thing again is that the only continent in the world that can produce meat today is Africa and probably parts of Australia. The rest of the world seems to have gone into horticulture and manufacturing industries. We have the single opportunity to produce beef whose demand is increasing by 20 per cent annually. African stands this chance, particularly Kenya, where we have 80 per of our land mass capable.

When the NARC Government, in 2003, came into power, it came up with a programme called the Economic Recovery and Wealth Creation Strategy. There was a study done where for every shilling invested in the arid and semi arid areas of this country, the Government would get a return of Kshs5 shillings. However, for every shilling that it would invest in the so-called high potential areas – these are no longer high potential – they would make Kshs1. We had an opportunity and the strategy demanded that the Government focused its investments in the arid and semi arid areas because of

the high returns. Unfortunately, despite all that, nothing happened in the ten years that the Government was in power.

Consequently, because of the neglect of this industry, we have a situation where pastoralist communities, after every two to three years, owing to drought, lose animals. The most significant drought was the one in 2005 where in northern part of Kenya alone lost livestock estimated at the cost of Kshs70 billion. You will remember that there have been subsequent droughts after that. I do not understand how the Government wants us to survive when they are not addressing issues affecting livelihoods. I want to give an example of what I said earlier, that the Government does not address livestock matters.

One example is the one I have given. A couple of years ago, the Government set up a Livestock Management Authority (LMA). That authority, a month after the budget was passed, has no idea how much money they will get. This was a matter of creating organisations and not giving them funds. We have the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC). As we speak, the maximum amounts of allocations they get from the Government have never exceeded Kshs150 million. We have heard about the Livestock Enterprise Fund (LEF). The maximum amount that has been allocated to this one does not exceed Kshs150 million.

We have the industries and 25 per cent of the population of this country lives in the 80 per cent land mass that depends on those industries. These are the pastoralists communities and yet the amount of money being invested is Kshs150 million. However, when they are discussing about one single write-off of debts for coffee farmers, this comes to Kshs5billion. One single write off for sugar cane farmers can be up to Kshs2 billion. We are not on the same level. The unfortunate thing is that we are missing an opportunity to invest in an area that would expand our GDP significantly.

The second example of the neglect, this is current – almost a month ago, the Jubilee Government – I am a Member of it which is unfortunate – forced out 120,000 animals out of a Taita Taveta Ranch. I have to say this because it is sad to belong to a Government that does not respect people's livelihoods. Some of those people have their own agreements with ranch owners. These are legal binding agreements. The Government mobilised the General Service Unit (GSU), the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and all manner of security forces to force out people who had invested a lot of money. Those animals were taken to Taita Taveta because they were for export. Today, these people are being forced out of Tana River and other areas.

Sen. Machage: On a point of information, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Do you want to be informed?

Sen. Billow: No, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have very little time. I prefer that my brother waits. There are three important areas in livestock that I want to support. These are tanneries, abattoirs and milk. There is no doubt in anyone's mind about the demand for camel milk today. The world is changing. There is only one single factory that packages that milk. Today, if we packaged this milk, this country would make more money than we can imagine. I want to support, strongly, that county governments in arid and semi arid areas invest in this area. I am glad to say that Mandera County, in its first budget, will invest Kshs1 billion towards the construction of a world class abattoir. We want to export meat. I think that county government is ahead of this Motion.

I want to conclude by saying that pastoralism is a way of life. About 25 per cent of our population depends on it. There is need for the Government to focus on investment

in this area. I particularly want this Government that we brought into power not to repeat what happened in Taita Taveta. We want the Government to stand out and to support investment in the livestock sector. I also want to encourage the lady who brought this Motion. As suggested by somebody - I think it was Sen. (Dr.) Machage - we need to develop a Bill that will make this Motion law in terms of how much money should be invested. We want to ensure that this Government puts more money into livestock and not the peanuts that they have been giving to livestock industries like the Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) and other institutions that are collapsing.

Sen. Murkomen: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for this opportunity. First of all, I would like to congratulate my friend, Sen. Naisula Lesuuda for this very important Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for many years, the pastoralist communities have been left behind because of either deliberate policy decisions, like Sessional Paper No.10 of 1965 or through ignorance in terms of policy implementers, particularly in understanding the importance of livestock. In fact, there are many papers and statements in the public that have always somehow tried to label pastoralist life as backward and that pastoralist communities need to be reclaimed from that kind of life. But we know that pastoralism, particularly the keeping of livestock is very important for this country.

It is important to emphasize what Sen. Billow talked about in terms of existence of a market, globally; that we can take advantage of the vast land in the pastoralist areas, which gives us an opportunity to have livestock, particularly the goats. I want to reiterate what the Mover of this Motion talked about having sweet meat. There is no better meat in this country than that of a goat from a pastoralist area. I think that it is important that we take advantage of that and capture the market globally. This will create employment for the youth and women and improve the economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important to understand why we went for devolution. Devolution was very important in developing local economies. That is why if you go to Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule, you will find that abattoirs is a function of county governments. But these county governments cannot just construct these abattoirs unless we give them the necessary resources. My proposal is that in the Budget for the next financial year, we must sit down together and cost all those functions in Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule. This is because in most pastoralist areas abattoirs will play a very important role. Therefore, we need to put resources not only in building the infrastructure and structure, but also in what Sen. Kuti said; something that many people, perhaps, may not appreciate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary standards requires certain measures to be put in place, including having a proper clearance mechanism for us to access foreign market, especially in Europe. It is important that we put even more resources on export related measures that will support abattoirs that are targeting foreign markets, so that we can ensure that our country is putting forward--- In fact, for a long time we used to talk about these areas being low potential. Now we can no longer say that Turkana, Elgeyo Marakwet or Baringo are low potential areas.

In fact, I was in a meeting last weekend where Sen. Zipporah Kittony reminded us that some of these counties used to be called "closed districts" during those days. According to Sen. Kittony, if you wanted to leave Baringo County for Nandi or other

parts of the country, you needed to get a licence somewhere in Elgeyo Marakwet County. This literary also meant that these places were “closed” economically, but now we cannot call them low potential areas because exploration of oil is taking place in Kerio Valley, between Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo County. We think that these counties are now getting the necessary attention, but it should not just get the attention for purposes of extracting resources out of them, but in terms of investing those resources in matters of livestock.

In fact, legislation on community land is being developed. The day that this legislation will be tabled in this House, we must be very careful not to facilitate processes in these pastoralist areas, which will lead to demarcation of land and subdivision into small units, because that will negate the potential that we would get from these areas in terms of keeping livestock. If you go to some parts of Laikipia and Narok, the continuous subdivision of land and the danger that came with group ranches, where they further subdivide the land to smaller unties, will perhaps do away with this very important economic activity of pastoralism and taking care of livestock. I think it is important that those legislations support this economic activity that will make a big difference.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I speak like this because the economic activity of a larger area of Elgeyo Marakwet County is livestock keeping. The same applies to our neighbours in Baringo. I think that it is important that Elgeyo Marakwet County be facilitated and given the resources to build abattoirs. The same applies to Baringo County and West Pokot County. Once that is done, even the cattle rustling menace will come to an end.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for all those reasons, I congratulate, again, Sen. Lesuuda and support this Motion.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM BUNGOMA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order! I did tell you that today is a day for many visitors. We have got a second group from Bungoma County. I want to introduce them, as is our tradition, without going into too much detail again, because we had gone through it, except to tell them that this is a temporary shelter that we have. I want you to feel very welcome in our Senate. I know that you have got other functions that you want to attend to at the Senate.

Karibuni sana and feel at home. You are our counterparts in the service of this nation. When I introduce you, please, stand up, so that you can be acknowledged. I had indicated that your Senator is not here. He is a very active Member of the Senate, but he is out of the country on official business. The members are:-

Hon. John Musakali, Leader of the Minority

Hon. Joan Lutukai

Hon. Christopher Mulati

Hon. Jack Kawa

Hon. Chrisantus Wechuli

Hon. John Wanyakha

Hon. Peter Cherui

Hon. James Wafula Nyongesa

Hon. Ali Machani Mutoka

Hon. Edward Elima

Mr. John Masongo, Clerk

Welcome and I hope that you will enjoy our session.

Now, hon. Senators, this Motion will end at 10.30 a.m. and that is when the Mover will be called to reply. Therefore, we have only 20 minutes and I can see that there is still a lot of interest in the Motion. Instead of giving you ten minutes each, therefore, I am requesting humbly that you allow me to reduce the period to five minutes, so that many of you can contribute. I will also request the Mover of the Motion to donate part of her time to reply to the Members, if there will still be interest.

Hon. Ndiema!

Sen. Ndiema: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate hon. Lesuuda for bringing this Motion, which is really of interest to the economy of this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, more than 75 per cent of this country falls under what is categorized as arid and semi-arid. The major activity or means of livelihood for the people in those areas is livestock keeping. So, it is a very important sector. It is unfortunate that for many years, we have considered this sector as a subsector of the agricultural sector, yet it is an activity carried out in 75 per cent of our land mass. It should be a sector on its own.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the livestock sector has a potential to grow the economy of this country faster than any other economic activity.

(Sen. Wako consulted while standing)

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order! Sen. Wako, I do not know whether you are aware of the provisions of Standing Order No.105.

Sen. Wako: I apologize, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Thank you.

Proceed!

Sen. Ndiema: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have heard about the policies and tended to blame Sessional Paper No.10 of 1965 for ills that we still experience in the livestock. I do not think that it is right to say so because after that, we have had so many papers, including Vision 2030, which all emphasize and extol the livestock sector, yet the allocations to this sector from our national resources are very meagre.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was a time that the livestock sector in this country was booming. We were exporting milk and meat, but over the years, our performance has diminished. We have to look at what went wrong. In so doing, let us look at the threats that exist in the livestock industry. First of all, unless we address the issue of diseases, we shall not grow this sector. This is because the pastoralists continue losing their livestock every year through diseases which can be prevented or treated. But as you know, the veterinary officers have long been redundant in the name of privatization. How many private veterinarians are able to perform private work in the arid and semi-arid areas? The Government must step in and deploy veterinary doctors in those areas. Even training in veterinary medicine in the universities has become a non-lucrative area. We are no longer producing enough veterinarians because they are not being employed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue that we have to address is rustling. But this is also connected to poverty, arising from less economic attention from the government to those areas. People are rustling because they are no longer earning anything from the livestock sector. We have to look at that. Water is another issue that has been mentioned. I do not need to emphasize that. There is also poor pasture management. There was a time when we had range management in this country. We managed pasture in a way that during the times of drought there was a fallback situation where livestock could graze. It is no longer there because we are subdividing those lands, left and right, as one Senator has said.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue is poor marketing. The Government no longer supports marketing. The Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) was revived, but as you can see, it is always limping with a lot of corruption. The holding grounds that existed previously were grabbed and are no longer there. We need to restart them. Even as we are talking about abattoirs, we have to look at where to locate them. Abattoirs could be best placed where the consumption is; whether it is in Nyeri or in Murang'a, we should set up abattoirs. There was a time I participated in a forum where we asked an investor to put up an abattoir in an ASAL. What happened is that they asked us, "What will we do with the offals or the byproducts?" Because---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order! Order, Senator; your time is up!

Sen. Ndiema: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to support.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Kittony.

Sen. Kittony: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me time to contribute to this very lively Motion moved by our beautiful pastoralist girl, Sen. Lesuuda.

Indeed what she has said here is true. Some of us come from those parts of the world where our meat is the best; it is second to none. We have a brand in Baringo called Koriema Goat; and even before you cook it, you have started salivating. So, I invite you to that part of the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the livestock industry in this country has really not got what it is supposed to get. I remember being in Botswana many years back; they get their export income from exporting their meat, and it is not a better country than ours. Kenya is able to do that and, in fact, we were exporting our meat when Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) was KMC. But, now, it is limping because of corruption. This is a wakeup call that Sen. Lesuuda has given to this Ministry. I think it is time that this country woke up to the reality and realized that the livestock industry is noble; it needs to be nurtured and protected. As I stand here, I am a farmer and I do not want to sell my cow cheaply like that. I would like to get the quality of what it is that my cow is worth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Motion because it deals with the counties. I can see that the counties are really going to work – and I am happy that my colleague neighbours from Bungoma are here with us, and I acknowledge you. We have the best livestock in Kenya. Every county should have an abattoir to offer opportunities for our young people, who are loitering on the streets and doing nothing, to be employed. So, it is not an issue that abattoirs should find a place to be put; but every county should have an abattoir because we have enough cows and goats.

I believe that on the 19th of December, there will be a big auction in Baringo because they have a lot of goats and they do not know what to do with them. So, I know that the annual auction is being revived because the goats are more than they can take and they do not get the money that these goats are worth. When Sen. Lesuuda yesterday talked about the skin, hooves and what-have-you, the debate was very lively and we should have taken a vote. But because the Motion spilled overnight to today, the heat of the debate is cooling down. When you talk of the hooves, it has value; when you talk of the skin, it has value. But the skins are being thrown away because nobody has captured that. So, if it goes to the county level, I believe this country will be richer than what it is now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank this beautiful girl from Samburu for moving this Motion and waking the Ministry of Livestock up. With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Dullo.

Sen. Adan: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Secondly, I would like to congratulate Sen. Lesuuda; this is a very important Motion. I think it is important that we should not take it lightly. The point that I really want to raise in support of this particular Motion is that, it looks like we are really diluting it. The reason I am saying this is because, from my point of understanding of this particular Motion, she is really looking at the livestock and pastoral areas – that is where there is a big problem – because there are livestock in other parts of the country. But the livestock in those areas are used in complimenting other products, for example, agriculture and tourism, especially for the coastal area. But in pastoral areas, livestock is the only source of livelihood. So, it is really important that we target this particular Motion to the livestock in pastoral areas.

Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is really important for us to give an opportunity for the construction of these particular abattoirs in those areas simply because we have chunks of land that is not utilised. If we were to look for land for construction of an abattoir, for example, in central province, I am sure we will not find it. But you will get a lot of land in pastoral areas, and this will give us an opportunity to come up with these abattoirs in all these other areas.

Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in pastoral areas or in most areas, you will find that there is poor infrastructure, because you cannot have abattoirs in areas with poor infrastructure simply because you cannot take the livestock to the abattoirs and also the products to the market. So, it is important, Sen. Lesuuda, that you also look at---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, Sen. Dullo! Address the Chair.

Sen. Adan: I am sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. We need to look at the infrastructure in those areas because they are in a really pathetic condition. Coming from pastoral areas, I know that livestock are owned by men; women and youth do not own livestock. We are just managing those livestock for men because culturally, livestock are owned by the men.

An hon. Senator: Why?

Sen. Adan: Do not ask me why; that is the practice in those areas. So, it is really important that we appreciate women so that they can also be brought into this business. By actually constructing these abattoirs, we should ensure that they are also introduced into this business by marketing and also running businesses in those abattoirs. That way,

we will actually be empowering women and youth in this part of the country. This will also make them self sustaining in terms of their livelihoods.

Lastly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we speak of development, this is development because, over the years, we have been left out, especially the people living in pastoral areas. When policies come up, they only focus on the agricultural areas. And I---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order! Your time is up.

Sen. Adan: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Karaba.

Sen. Karaba: Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to also contribute in support of this crucial Motion; it is crucial to the extent that, as you have heard, a large part of Kenya or most of the area of Kenya is semi-arid sahelian region where such activities take place. Therefore, it is important that we have to take care of the residents living in those areas because this is one of the very few economic activities that they have in the region. Going by the fact that the rest of the country, which is 12 per cent, consists of rainfall reliable regions, we need to support this Motion earnestly so because without making use of those areas, what else will be done there? So, it is a matter of opportunity cost that there is nothing else and very little else can take place here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important to note that during the earlier days, we reckon and we salute someone called Muindi Mbingu. Many of you might not know that he did a lot of work to come up with how to make use of this resource. He travelled all the way from Machakos to come to Nairobi to convince the then Governor that Athi River, which was to be constructed, was mainly going to be constructed for the whites only, leaving the poor Africans. The poor Africans were accused of over-stocking the Iveti Hills and that they were using force to re-stock. So, a lot of other things have been said here and done in this country to discriminate those settlers and residents living in those areas. To me, what there is, is that the Government--- Not even the Government but the counties – the way the Motion states; and that is a very good spirit – should put up modern abattoirs because without that, the transport of these animals to the market regions like Nairobi, Mombasa, Nyeri, Kisumu, Eldoret and Kitale may be hindered by the kind of transport which is already there. You will find that it is very, very difficult even for animals to be moved on hoof to the market centres and, as a result, many of them die.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will also find that cattle rustling in those livestock regions comes as a result of some influential rich men who would like to introduce cattle rustling so that by the end of the day, whatever livestock that they capture, of course, will be taken to the abattoirs for slaughter. So, if those abattoirs could be constructed in the said regions, it would be possible to transport refrigerated meat to the markets, and we have heard that, that is what is happening in Nigeria, Botswana and also in Swaziland. So, I do not see the reason why Kenya cannot construct similar abattoirs in the livestock rich areas so that we can transport the meat to the market and then avoid the transport cost involved in moving live animals; so that we could also avoid cattle rustling and spread of diseases from one region to another.

We reckon that there was the Lenana Agreement which had to put the Maasai Reserve to the north and the other one to the south, and then we had the railway

constructed up to Nanyuki. The purpose of that was to make sure that the animals, particularly to the north, were not supposed to mix with the whites only livestock to the south. That delimited the tribes living to the north of the reserve to areas which were infested with diseases, poor infrastructure and so many other problems.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Motion, therefore, seeks to restore the dignity of the tribes and residents living in those areas so that they can eke their living from the only economy that they have, and that is livestock. So, let us encourage this to go on and I am sure the residents of this region will be happy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to support.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM BUNGOMA COUNTY ASSEMBLY

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, hon. Senators! That brings---

Order, Members! Order! Before I proceed, let me now introduce the last group from Bungoma County that is here to visit us. I would like to tell you how pleased we are that you have found time to come and see how we operate as Senate, because you are our counterparts and you are a very important arm of what all of us are trying to achieve in devolution.

We have had two groups before this and like I said, this is the county represented by Sen. Wetangula who is out of the country on official business and that is why he is not here this morning. So, you have to allow that but the Senators from the neighbouring counties are here, like Sen. Wako. So, if you need any assistance, Sen. Wako is here. Sen. Orenge is also from the neighbouring county. Should you require any assistance of any kind in the absence of Sen. Wetangula, then you are in very good hands. The people we have here are our colleagues from the County of Bungoma and their names are:-

1. Hon. Henry Majimbo Okumo – Leader of the Majority
2. Hon. Wekesa Mwembe
3. Hon. Moses Opicho
4. Hon. Paul Wanyonyi
5. Hon. Florence Wekesa
6. Hon. Andrew Simiyu
7. Hon. Martin Wafula
8. Hon. Henry Nyongesa

I would like to take special recognition of Mr. Absalom Wendoh, the Serjeant-at-Arms, whom we all recognize very well. We worked very closely with him. I was in the Ninth Parliament and he was an extremely diligent officer. You are lucky to have Mr. Wendoh as your Serjeant-at-Arms. He offered long service and was recognized by the Head of State by getting the Head of State Commendation when he finished his duties. Welcome back to Parliament, Mr. Wendoh.

Lastly we have;

Mr. Bonventure Omusolo – Hansard.

Karibuni Sana.

(Applause)

The time for this Motion is finished and I am now going to call the Mover to reply.

Sen. Lesuuda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you have realized, there is a lot of interest for others to also contribute. So, I will give Sen. Mositet two minutes, Sen. Bule one minute, Sen. Wangari one minute, Sen. Wako one minute, Sen. Chelule one minute and I will have four minutes to reply.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Okay, let them contribute in that order.

Sen. Mositet.

Sen. Mositet: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me also thank the Mover of the Motion for donating her time.

This Motion has come at the right time so that it can be a challenge to our counties. The issue of animals as stipulated in the Fourth Schedule is a county matter. Let me just inform this House about my county so that they can know the importance of this Motion. Going by the population of my county, we are about 800,000 people and about 400,000 people live in cosmopolitan areas while others live in reserve areas which are semi-arid and they rear cattle. The people who are employed and do not live on livestock could be less than 20,000 but the rest depend purely on livestock. So, you can imagine how important that group is. This group does not come to look for work in Nairobi or other urban areas.

What I am saying is that this economy has been neglected despite the fact that it is a thriving economy on its own. If only the Government can come up and assist, particularly now that we have a devolved system of governance, the county governments can make sure that the abattoirs are built in each and every county. There is big demand for meat, not just locally but also internationally.

I support.

Sen. Bule: Bw. Naibu Spika, nashukuru kwa kunipa nafasi hii. Namshukuru pia Sen. Lesuuda kwa kunipa fursa hii. Naunga Hoja hii mkono na ningependa kusema kwamba jambo la ufugaji linahitaji liangaliwe sana. Ufugaji ulikuwepo tangu jadi lakini wafugaji wamesahaulika kimaisha na Serikali yetu. Serikali haikutia maanani mambo ya ufugaji kwa sababu hawakupata usawa na ndugu zetu wengine wakulima. Ufugaji ni njia pekee ambayo wafugaji wanaweza kupata mapato. Mimi kama mfugaji ni mchungaji wa kuhamahama. Hiyo sehemu ambayo tunaishi inahitaji ufugaji kuimarishwa kwa usawa kama wengine.

Wakati mfupi uliopita nilisikia Serikali ikisema kwamba sehemu ambayo ilikuwa imetengwa ya ADC Galana itafanyiwa ukulima lakini ufugaji unazorota na unahitaji uangalifu zaidi na pia kuinuliwa. Kwa hivyo tunasema kwamba tunataka ufugaji uwe sawa na sehemu zingine za maisha. Sisi wafugaji tunategemea---

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order! Your time is up.

Sen. Bule: Ningependa kuunga mkono.

Sen. Wangari: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, noting that I only have one minute, I will be very quick. From the outset, I support this Motion and congratulate the Mover. Having visited her county, I can affirm that the meat there is really natural and very nice. One of the biggest challenges of the Jubilee Government is unemployment among the youths. So, the building of these abattoirs will not only create employment but will make

it very attractive for the face book generation of this country that is really big to be able to participate in this traditional industry that must be modernized to be at par with the dynamics of the world.

When you look at this Motion and I want to talk about infrastructure especially in the counties that have been very marginalized; I would say that we need to interrogate what the counties are doing especially on the budgeting aspect. This was brought up when we were debating the County Allocation of Revenue Bill. As we interrogate through our Committee for Finance, Trade and Commerce, we need to see what exactly the counties have put aside for this development being a county function under the the Fourth Schedule, Part 1(c). A substantial amount of money should be put aside so that we encourage value addition and ensure that livestock keeping is no longer a traditional practice.

I support.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Wako, you have one minute.

Sen. Wako: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to thank Sen. Lesuuda for having given me one minute. I was once the director of Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) in the 1970s when things were running well. I recall receiving a delegation from Botswana who came to study how we run the KMC. They went back to their country and copied us completely but theirs is thriving and ours has gone down. This Motion which has been brought is very important because in Africa, we tend to sit on our wealth. We do not utilize our wealth and we do not utilize what we have. The passage of this Motion and the support that we shall have on it from the county governments--- Even the national government should take an active interest in terms of an agricultural policy to support livestock development in this country and to give the necessary funds to the county governments to put up modern abattoirs and the infrastructure that goes around it so that the area can develop the way it is meant to do.

I support.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Sen. Chelule, you are the last person in that lot. I do not think Sen. Lesuuda has left time for herself.

Sen. Chelule: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this chance to contribute to this Motion. First, I must congratulate Sen. Lesuuda for bringing this Motion. This is a very important Motion for the following reasons: It will improve the economic status of communities, create employment and give space for farmers to enjoy maximum proceeds through value addition. It is a wonderful way of encouraging livestock farmers. I want to stand here as one of the Senators and I want to encourage all the leaders to enrich ideas and even suggest that this Motion to be taken to the level of developing a Bill. So, I encourage Sen. Lesuuda to make sure that this Motion becomes a Bill.

I beg to support.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Thank you, Sen. Chelule.

Sen. Lesuuda.

Sen. Lesuuda: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me thank all my fellow distinguished Senators for supporting this Motion. It has just shown us that regardless of which county we come from, we are ready to make sure that each and every county thrives on the potentials that it has. If one, two, three or four counties do not enjoy the benefit of devolution, all of us senators would have failed. So, I thank you all for contributing to

this important Motion and I hope that in future we will continue to support each and every county to appreciate and reach its maximum potential.

I want to congratulate and thank those who have thought it wise that we should go beyond this one aspect of abattoirs or tanneries and think of a Bill that will bring full economic impact to these areas; like having co-operatives in these areas and also putting the youth in groups. How do they even access the Youth Enterprise Fund? What will they do with it if there are no economic activities that they have to undertake in those areas? After this, I will be going to Laikipia, one of the counties that we are talking about. All the animals from Samburu County have moved to Laikipia County because that is where grass is right now. There is a conflict waiting to happen because they are going to go to people's farms. They will go and raid people's farms because they do not know how the Pokots and Samburu's live. As leaders we are going to talk to those who have moved to stay well, feed their livestock and go back.

Actually, this time could have been used to do something else helpful if livestock farming was taken seriously in this country. This is something that we could undertake to ensure that there is economic value for farmers in these areas. I want to thank each one of us and hope that later when we will be voting, the reflection of the support that we have received here, will also be reflected during the voting for this Motion. I hope that the respective counties have been following this debate and have seen the support from all Senators from across the country. So, they should take it seriously and importantly.

I know money will be released to the counties and we are not dictating to the counties what they need to do but we are saying that we hope that they will prioritize things that will add value to their people. We hope that they will listen to us as Senators and see how they can actualize the issues we are discussing.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Thank you. Before I put the question on this issue so that we proceed to vote, under Standing Order No.69(1) (2), my ruling is pure and simple that this is Motion that affects counties. Therefore, I will now put the question.

Sen. Lesuuda: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to request and bring to your attention now that you have ruled that this is a matter that touches on counties, that we do not have the requisite 24 Senators to vote on it. Under Standing Order No.51(3), I would like to request that we defer the voting to this afternoon.

Sen. Murkomen: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the same breath, as Sen. Lesuuda said, we have already set precedence. Every time we debate a Motion concerning counties we normally set a voting date. I will be hesitant to use that Standing Order because we had set a precedence that we debate this week and vote on a Tuesday or Wednesday next week so that there is sufficient notice. I will be hesitant to use that Standing Order because that will mean that we do it tomorrow.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): Order, Senators. I would like to uphold the application that has been mentioned under Standing Order No.51(3) that defers the voting. However, let me bring it to your attention that this has to be on a request by a Senator. If there is no request by a Senator on this issue, I will put the question. That needs to be understood very clearly. My work as the Deputy Speaker is to

follow the rules under the Standing Orders. However, I am happy that a Senator has requested that we defer the putting of the question.

The other thing about the Standing Order brought by Sen. Murkomen, I am not aware of any precedence on this issue. There will be no precedence on this issue. There has to be a request and deferment of the ruling.

Standing Order No.51(3) says;

“Despite paragraph (2), the Speaker may, on the request of a Senator, defer the putting of the question to the following day in which case the Speaker shall thereupon nominate a time at which the question shall be put.”

At the moment, as our Standing Orders stand, there is no question of slotting a day later in the week for voting until these things change. So, at the request of Sen. Lesuuda, my ruling will be that this will be done at the next sitting day. Were you asking for today afternoon which is the next sitting day or tomorrow Thursday?

Sen. Lesuuda: I asked for today afternoon.

The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura): It is so ordered. The voting will be today afternoon after the voting on the County Allocation of Revenue Bill.

*(Putting of the question and voting
on the Motion was deferred)*

PROVISION OF COMPUTERS AND ICT TRAINING TO
MEMBERS OF COUNTY ASSEMBLIES

Sen. Kagwe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to move the following Motion.

THAT, appreciating the significance of technology in the development of counties and also acknowledging the important role that Members of the County Assemblies (MCA) perform; determined to increase the efficiency of the legislative process and other parliamentary procedures and consequently save costs for counties; further recognizing that technology in Government fosters innovation and transformation, enhances performance and capacity in delivery of services and leverages support towards good governance; recognizing the important role played by the media in enhancing democracy and accountability; the Senate urges the County Governments to provide offices, computers and ICT training to Members of the County Assemblies, and to establish network infrastructure as well as a data bank for reference in all County Assemblies and to provide a specially equipped media centre in all county government headquarters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the benefit of Senators who are present here today, I would like to point out that the last word on that Motion is headquarters.

I will move the Motion as amended.

This Motion focuses primarily on creating efficiency at the county levels. I would like, from the onset, to state that the position of our county assembly members in Kenya is one that requires support and consideration, not just at the county level but at the national level. This is a Motion which I believe will have the interest of all Senators who

have county assemblies in their county governments and all Senators who support the importance of improved county efficiency performance.

Article 175 of our Constitution says clearly that there is separation of powers between democratic principles and separation of powers at the county level. We also know that Article 96 states very clearly that the role of the Senate is to protect the interest of the counties. It is not possible to protect the interest of counties if we consider one side of the county which is the governors and the county executive members. However, we must consider the other arms of government particularly the legislative assemblies of those counties. Over the last couple of months, we have had county governments under serious attacks, sometimes rightfully so because of the budget processes that we saw. However, if we will support the county governments, we must operate on the premises of the “carrot and stick”. We cannot continue to criticize the members and not give them the technology that they require to operate efficiently.

A large population of county assemblies is very able individuals. A lot of them are interested in county governments. The Committee on Education, Information and Technology did a tour a while back. We engaged many county assembly members in our tours. We promised them, during the tours, that we would do everything in our power to ensure that they are supported not only by county governments but also by the national Government.

Under Schedule Four of the Constitution, item No.32 of the role of the national Government says, the national Government shall create capacity. This is capacity and technological support for county assemblies and county governments, as the Motion urges the county governments to provide the facilities we are talking about; it also behooves on the respective Ministry in the national Government to ensure that the county governments have the capacity to do and to implement what the Motion says.

If you look at the roles given to Members of county assemblies, you will see that there are very serious issues that they should tackle. They should tackle budgeting and they are supposed to be very informed while doing those things. However, you will find that county assembly Members that need to be informed and to debate on very serious issues like laws can only do so and consult each other in tea rooms. They have no resources whatsoever.

If you asked a county assembly Member to meet you today, anywhere from this country, chances are that they would tell you to meet them in a hotel, a pub or somewhere outside because there is nowhere for them to meet. You have seen how difficult it is for Senators to operate without offices. We even have Senators who are operating from their vehicles. You will see them doing their things in their cars because offices are not ready. We have a plan and an idea of what is being done. However, in many county assemblies, there is no plan. This Motion is supposed to emphasize that even as the county governments plan for county executives and other county government officials, it must also plan for the members of the county assemblies.

The same assembly members are supposed to make laws, as I said. They are also supposed to research. How do you make laws if you have not done some research? You will find that there is no research capacity, let alone the few people we have in the Senate and the National Assembly. For the county assemblies, there is nothing. There is no infrastructure. There is nothing they can do to research for laws that we, as a country, pursuant to the Constitution, have asked them to make. Therefore, it will be unfair,

grossly so, to ask them to proceed and to operate the way they are. This House is, therefore, being asked to ensure that they operate in a similar fashion as we do.

We should also recognize, not just the importance of the members of the county assembly but to give dignity to these members. Today, some county assembly members, after the combination of what were council wards, are representing areas which are as large as constituencies in some parts of the country. Therefore, they should be given the dignity that their office deserves. Part of that dignity is to ensure that people do not operate from pubs and tea houses but in properly equipped offices.

Further, we know that these are people who are educated just like us. If we are talking about the provision of computers in the Senate and the National Assembly, it should follow, almost without saying, that there should be provision of the same to county assembly members. How will we engage with them if some of us are armed but the rest of us are not armed to do so? We are asking that members of county assemblies are trained as Members of the Eighth Parliament were. As far as I can remember, we provided training facilities for persons who could not use computers during the Eighth Parliament when we introduced computers in offices of Members of Parliament.

A similar version should be applied where we ask that county governments plan and budget for training of county assembly members so that they can also use computers. Most of them are struggling on their own and going to areas that offer facilitation and research. However, I think training is necessary. We will soon bring a Motion to this House to ask that connectivity of fiber is taken to those counties so that when they get their computers, not only do they use them, but do so effectively via the fiber optic cables.

[The Deputy Speaker (Sen. Kembi-Gitura) left the Chair]

[The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen) took the Chair]

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the county assembly members, under Article 185 of the Constitution, are also supposed to approve the plans for exploitation of county resources. I am repeating these things because it is important for the Senators here present to also appreciate that we are not just talking about people who have got a small role. We know that there has been a superiority battle in this country between the National Assembly and the Senate. If I may give an example to the House, a few weeks back, when I was in the United States, I asked the Members of the Senate of the United States whether they were more superior or inferior to the House of Representatives. Of course, they said that they represented a bigger area and, therefore, were more superior. When I went to the House of Representatives, I asked them whether they were more superior or inferior. They said that, of course, they were more superior because they were more than the Senators in America. Two hundred years later, this question has not been settled in the United States. I do not think that we are going to settle it here in a couple of months. Having said that, I am speaking from the Upper House!

(Laughter)

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in addition to the support of the county assembly members, members of the Fourth Estate have also got a very serious role to play in our democratic space and national development. Article 34 of our Constitution is very clear about the freedom of the media in Kenya. I believe that we, in this House, support the freedom of the media without exception. But in order for the media to do its job and especially to operationalize Article 35 of the same Constitution, which states that the State will publish and publicize any important information affecting the nation--- If you go to my county of Nyeri and want to have a press conference, you will have to look for a time when it is not raining, because you can only have a press conference outside; somewhere in the grass. I think that the case is the same almost in every place that you go.

Again, when we went round with the Committee on Education, Information and Technology, in all the areas that we were speaking to the Press, we never had a single area where we could sit down with them and take a question. It was a question of standing somewhere in the parking lot and then you shift because cars are making too much noise. Members of the Fourth Estate should not be treated like that. They should be provided with a proper facility basically called a media centre in civilized nations. Instead of the members of the Forth Estate waiting outside, we should have a place that is properly lit and equipped with computers and broadcasting equipment, so that they are able to use that equipment to broadcast to the nation and the rest of the counties in Kenya.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, in the olden days, the Fourth Estate was following other estate generals, nobles, clergy and commoners. Today, the Fourth Estate is fourth after the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. Today, the role of the media is bigger than all. Like Edmund Burke said in the House of Commons sometime in the 1700s, that estate is probably by far the most important. If, indeed, it is the most important estate, then it follows without saying that they too should be treated in a manner that reflects that importance. Whether we are talking about private or public media, they all play the very important role of disseminating information. Also, we should not provide those facilities in order to compromise the media. We should provide those facilities so that the media are able to oversight our Government effectively; whether it is national or county governments.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would also like to mention that the role that this House is being urged to play in facilitating should be at the county governments level, especially in matters of planning. The governors should engage the Ministry of Devolution and Planning to see whether it cannot support this Motion by providing the technical area, since it is supposed to provide capacity.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to move this Motion and ask Sen. Mong'are to second.

Sen. Okong'o: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, thank you for this opportunity to second this Motion that has been moved by my Chairman of the Committee, Sen. Kagwe.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, it is important that we lay a firm foundation in devolution. It is also very important that we spend all the money required to set standards for our counties. When we travelled with the Committee, we found that there are some counties which are prepared while others are lagging behind. So, it is important that each and every Member of this House supports this noble Motion, so that every county can be enhanced in terms of the fibre optic connectivity.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, our county assembly members should not be called “honourable” members whereas they live in a very dishonorable state. For instance, in Nyamira it is very difficult to know where these honourable members stay. This is because they do not have offices and some are operating from ramshackle sort of offices. So, it is very important that the county governments, now that they are going to get budget allocations, give priority to enhancing the state of capacity to our Members of the County Assemblies (MCAs) in terms of providing them with computers and offices.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as has been clearly put by Sen. Kagwe, even the media centres are very important. Today we have witnessed a number of MCAs visiting the Senate. If we had the capacity, which we hope to have in future, we could have just canvassed with them from their county assemblies via video conference.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Motion and I ask every Member to support it. We are talking about e-governance under the Vision 2030. We hear about files getting lost from one place to another, but if an MCA needs to communicate to the Speaker, for instance, he can just do it by sending a message via computer. This will reduce corruption at the county level.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, on the issue of marketing of our products in those regions which have potential in tourism, if the county governments and MCAs are equipped, they can have the capacity to communicate not only to the fellow members of the county assemblies in Kenya but even to the donors. Therefore, I also request that our county governments approach donors in this respect, since the monies which will be sent to the county governments will be minimal. There are donors who are interested to uplift the standards of our capacities. These donors include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ford Foundation. So, it is very important that our governors also and those in charge in those areas approach these institutions, including even the World Bank and Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), so that we can improve the state of technology in our assemblies.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as we moved around, as the Chairman has clearly put, we realized that the County of Laikipia, for instance, has very elaborate plans on connectivity. Kirinyaga County was lagging behind while Nyeri was fairly doing well. As we move around, we also want to advocate that our counties must be enhanced and the MCAs given due support to operate.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support.

(Question proposed)

Sen. Wangari: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for giving me this chance to support this very timely Motion that has been brought to this House.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we cannot be talking, as the Jubilee Government, of digitalizing Class One pupils when the people that they are looking up to and are very close to them – the MCAs – are not at par. We are in a digital or global village and the reason that we are putting these things up is because devolution is a new phenomenon in this country and so, we are learning along the way. Every county has something special to show that comes from the area on opportunities. This can be enhanced by making sure

that these opportunities are put online. I am happy to hear that some counties already have working websites. We cannot overemphasize the need to be digitized.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the role of the MCA or *waheshimiwa*, as they are called today, is really widened. It is not the traditional councillor role that was there in the former Constitution. This is because it not only includes representation, but also legislation. Some of these counties are very vast and there is a problem when it comes to sharing of information, with the geographical hindrances that exist in infrastructure and transport system. The Information Communication Technology (ICT) can make this very easy because when something is posted on the website or even the social media, you can get information. You can access something on Twitter so to say before it even hits the mainstream media. If you look at the Parliament Website today, and I am a frequent visitor of it, especially on the operations of the Senate, you will see that the HANSARD reports, first of all, are put up very promptly. I am able to see if I quoted something and it was out of context or the HANSARD did not pick it very well. I am able to correct it immediately because it is put up before we even get the hand-delivered HANSARD. If this can be done for the counties, we can be sure that efficiency will be enhanced. It will be very effective in terms of following these conversations and seeing what is in the Order Papers of the counties and what the emerging issues are. This will enable us to operationalize the implementation of Article 35, which states clearly that every citizen has the right to information. That right must be protected by everyone from the county assemblies to this Senate, to ensure that public participation, which is enshrined in the Constitution, is enhanced. Let people contribute to what is being discussed in the precincts of the county assemblies.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, as I support, I would like to urge that we should not only have the county assemblies allocated funds to make sure that they are digital, we must also have funds allocated for constant and periodical appraisal because technology is not static. Technology is very dynamic and what is trending today may not be trending in the next one year. If we look at how far we have come, especially with the new media, you will see that it has evolved over time. People can have conversations--- Even as we look at the operations of this House, we must have a very constant and stable relationship with the counties. But this can also be enhanced by having proper media centres, as it has been proposed. Because, then, we can even have Skype meetings and video conferencing, because our schedule is very tight and owing to the numbers in this House, we may not be able to be everywhere every time. So, if they the counties had proper media centres, we would be able to have these conversations and to enhance the relationship between the Senate as the protector of counties and the counties themselves.

As I finish, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, this right also – I know it has been a hot issue, especially on the way the media has been treated in the Lower House – I really would hope that the county assemblies would embrace how the Senate has treated the media, because even if we are working with what we have as a makeshift place, we have been very, very constant on the way we treat members of the Fourth Estate by having somewhere they can sit and follow our deliberations. That is why, may be, you will see that we have got really positive reporting out there in terms of our own public relations.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support and I hope that, as we debate – and I know the County Allocation of Revenue Bill has gone to the Committee Stage– that substantial allocation is also put to ensure that these counties not only allocate money to

having office complexes, but to ensure that they also must have a plan which is embedded in the wider strategy of the county to have the whole operation digitized. We really do not have a choice.

With those few remarks, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Sen. (Prof.) Lesan.

Sen. (Prof.) Lesan: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, first, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Motion. Secondly, I want to thank the Chairman of my Committee for moving this very important Motion. The Motion, as it reads, urges the county government--- I think this Motion really would be saying, "Instructs the county governments," but we are very gentle and we want to use protocol. So, we want to urge; otherwise, it is our prime responsibility to actually carry forward what is requested in this Motion.

First of all, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want us to ask ourselves whether we recognize the shortcomings that already exist within the operations of county governments. One of them, of course, is the education level of the Members of the County Assemblies (MCAs). It has been admitted and mentioned here that some county assemblies, at some point, suggested and actually asked if they could debate their Motions in their mother tongues. That, of course, tells us something about the levels of education that some MCAs – not all of them – have. I also get concerned with the fact that even though we might be educated, we could be educated in our fields, but I do not know whether we are all educated in the handling and usage of computers and its software. So, education is one of the shortcomings that we must know already exists among our MCAs and, therefore, the capacity to use the technology that is there is limited.

Secondly, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we also have to recognize the shortcoming of time. There is a very short time between the knowing of how to use these materials and the expectations of the people for us to deliver services. So, there is a short period of time and, therefore, we must positively react to this situation and improve on it. There are also the types of services we are expected to deliver to the public. A lot of information, including application for jobs is online and thus requires some knowledge on this technology. Therefore, it is very important that those who participate most in public affairs, like the MCAs, are well versed in the usage and availability of these equipment. So, it is very important that we realize the shortcomings that already exist so that we can support this type of Motion, which goes to resolve some of these problems.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we are very fortunate here in the Senate or in the National Assembly because we have the support of the Parliamentary Service Commission. A similar body does not exist within the counties and the provision of some of these services is done by the governors or the county assemblies. Of course, this being a new structure and a new arrangement and, therefore, such provisions are not even in place. This is a very big handicap and the request here is that the Ministry of Devolution, which is charged with the provision of capacity and training of the counties, actually takes an active part in this area of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in the county governments, especially in the training of the MCAs. This will not be a duplication of roles because there is no other body that is designated and charged with this responsibility of training the individuals. So, we urge the Ministry of Devolution to actually come online and provide these services.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would like to commend some of the counties that have actually gone out of their way to provide some of these services that we are asking for at the moment. So, there are some counties that have actually done this, although to a very limited extent. We expect a lot more from this because we think this is a very important activity. So, for those counties which have done this, we would urge them to go on and actually go the full hog of providing these services.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are some counties that in their---

(Sen. Madzayo stood up in his place)

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Order, Senator! Order!

Sen. (Prof.) Lesan: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Order, Sen. (Prof.) Lesan!

What is your point of order, Sen. Madzayo?

Sen. Madzayo: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, is it in order for my colleague to refer to the Temporary Speaker as "Mr. Chairman?"

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Sen. (Prof.) Lesan, you are completely out of order! You may not traditionally be used to seeing me sitting here, but, nevertheless, I am the Temporary Speaker!

(Laughter)

Proceed.

Sen. (Prof.) Lesan: Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. This is new territory for me and I want to apologize for referring to you as "Mr. Chairman;" but I know that you are the honorable Speaker for now, and I respect the Chair.

Pardon me, Mr. Speaker--- Mr. --- Mr. --- Madam--- Mr. ---

(Laughter)

Pardon me, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, if I continue to use that term, but I will try as best as I can not to refer to you as "Mr. Chairman" again.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Proceed.

(Laughter)

Sen. (Prof.) Lesan: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir. There were some county governments that actually considered training of Members of County Assembly (MCA) as an extravagant expense. I think that it was not correct and any monies that have been set aside for training and capacity building is money well utilized. I will encourage that these monies continue to be used but perhaps in a more careful way in that MCAs need not go to Mombasa or Naivasha in order to get trained. The training can be done in nearby places even within their own counties. This is information that MCAs must have.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, Article 192 of the Constitution expects the county governments to operate a financial management system that is up to speed with the one of the national government. We are aware that the national government is up to speed in this and therefore the county governments are expected to also open a financial management of a standard that is equivalent to that of the national government. I am sure this can only be effected if the know-how and the hardware are available in the counties. That is why this Motion is urging the county governments to provide the software, the hardware and the knowledge that is required for the county governments to actually operate an acceptable financial management system.

Lastly, the MCAs play a very crucial role in the oversight of the county government where the Senators are part. I am sure we can do a much better job if the MCAs are conversant and have the tools to enable them work with us to oversight the county government. Therefore, the onus is on us, the Senators, to assist and ensure that Information Communication Technology (ICT) in total, including the software and the hardware, is in place for us to deliver services in the county governments and also to assist the national government to serve and enforce the manifestos that have been assured to the public.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Sen. Gwendu: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the chance to support this Motion. I am really honoured to support this Motion as I am in the Committee for Education, Information and Technology. I would like to start by referring to a quote by Neil Turner from my Blackberry playbook, just to support the digital era that I am in, and I quote:-

“Future generations will thank us for the fight we are undertaking to promote ICT and ensure we have a world class workforce who can compete in a digital world.”

If we want to compete in this digital world, then the county governments cannot be left behind. We need MCAs who are able to also stand up and use the same tablet like I am using. They cannot do that if they do not have computers in their offices and if they are not up to standard in this digital era. If we provide them with computers, it will even encourage them to improve their education, go back to school and study computers so that they can compete in the digital world. So, we need to supply them with computers to enable them access more information and also enable the public to access information they discuss in their chambers.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about the media. We need to support the media so that they are able to work hand in hand with the county government to enable people access information. We know very well that the media oversights the government by giving people information on what is going on. So, we need to support them so that they can work in a civilized manner and in a civilized environment.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Sen. Lonyangapuo.

Sen. (Prof.) Lonyangapuo: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity and also thank my Chairman, Sen. Kagwe for introducing and bringing this Motion at the early stages of the life of this Senate, especially now that we are anchoring on devolution. The players of devolution, that is, the Upper House, which is the Senate, should link directly with the county assemblies in order to make sure that devolution takes root and it works.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, about two years, to be precise in January, 2011, I remember it was about five months after the Constitution was promulgated, the Ministry of Public Works then together with other Ministries decided to come up with offices in the county assemblies. The idea was a replica and a mini-version of the current parliament where the National Assembly sits at the moment. We should also remember that the Senate Chamber is coming up next to that Chamber and a lot of money has been put in, that is, about Kshs2.2 billion for building offices for the Senators and the Chamber.

There was an idea that county assemblies must be the same in every county. The building you enter should be the same everywhere including Lodwar, the headquarters for Turkana County. This is because we are now decentralizing and devolving power from one source to 47 assemblies. Budgets and drawings were done including visits across the nation. Photographs were taken and designs done. Some of the counties, for example, where the Temporary Speaker comes from, have no office up to now. They have not inherited any office which was for the municipal council. This is the same in Garissa and West Pokot. Sen. Obure was the Minister in charge and Treasury also gave out money for initial visits. I was the Permanent Secretary then and I even sent people to India and South Africa. Very noble ideas were brought and they could have made it easier for the Motion introduced by Sen. Kagwe where every MCA would have an office, installed and equipped with the latest infrastructure required for an office of that calibre. Owing to the Commissions we have put in place, somebody said that we could not build county assemblies before governors were in place.

As you know, governors have no relation with county assemblies. You can now see that we could have put this right. A budget of Kshs10 billion would have been enough. A few counties like Uasin Gishu and Nyeri are not so badly off. However, the chambers also needed to be modified to resemble what we have here. Kenyans are very good in criticising any idea whose time has come. If we followed that, we would not be where we are today. We would be talking about counties whose structures resemble and which can discharge their duties appropriately. If Senators or even the President wanted to go and address county assemblies there would be no problem. However, as it is, some counties are meeting in make shift areas.

We want county governors to have chambers where they can work. They have nowhere to sit and yet people are flocking around them with all manner of problems. I visited my governor and found 150 people waiting to see a man who was already looking very tired. Among the people who were seated there was a student with a suit case dressed in uniform who wanted school fees. People have not understood the meaning of devolution. They thought that school fees had been devolved and that everyone can go to queue and get a set.

In support of this Motion, I would like to say that the county governments, together with the national Government, should see how offices can be provided for the members of the county assemblies. We also need to have premises to store the laptops we will buy for our little ones who will be joining class one. The first people who need to be included by the Ministry of Education in the dissemination of class one laptops are the county assembly members. They are very few. They range between 1,500 and 2,000. The county assembly members have a huge territory and address many people. When they

address parents, they should have an exhibit and show what they are talking about. We are now implementing the agenda for this Government. We also need i-pads.

I know that some county assembly members have been making long trips to go to South Africa. Others have gone to Rwanda. However, before they start going far, the Speakers of the Senate and the National Assembly and the respective Clerks should provide capacity building for these people. They should meet the 47 Speakers and Clerks and show them how we operate here. We should also take time to train the members of the county assemblies on how to generate Motions and Bills related to what they are doing on the ground.

Are we just allowing governors to buy peace and allowing people to go to Mombasa? In the process, they end up doing what is not required. My friend talked about leadership appraisals and human resource training that is required. As we talk about infrastructure, there are wards that have no mobile telephony network? So, when we say that we want people to have laptops or mobile phones, then the national Government should ensure that appropriate infrastructure for communication in every ward is given.

County assembly members - I have 20 county assembly members in Kapenguria, West Pokot County, including others who are nominated – should communicate with their constituents and voters from their offices. In some areas, they have to physically walk to see the people they want to address. You also know that we do not have good road networks in some wards and counties. I propose that this Motion, in addressing county governments, they also facilitate the members of county assembly to get loans. They should work together and see how they can access loans from banks and buy vehicles.

I am told that there are counties that have bought vehicles that reflect that Kenya is probably very rich. The latest version of prados has arrived in town. I encourage that we think positively and move on. However, we should not buy the top of the range cars which are going for Kshs20 million when you could get a similar four-wheel vehicle for Kshs2 million. A good four-wheel drive car that is not extravagant on fuel should be considered.

I want us to think about improving the academic standards of county assembly members. They should be encouraged to go to school. That means that the relevant Ministries and county governments should ensure that some universities open campuses in the counties and offer evening classes. You have heard some county assembly members saying that they want to speak in their mother tongue. Why are they saying so? It is because they do not understand what is being done in English. That does not mean that an adult cannot go to school. We must encourage people to go to school. This is an opportunity to instill what we lost.

This Motion comes at a time when we should be thinking about our relationship with the media in this Senate. We encourage the county assembly members to work closely with the media. We encourage the media to work closely with the members of the county assembly so that issues affecting the counties are addressed.

I support.

Sen. Karaba: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir for allowing me to contribute to this belated Motion. It is belated because when we started forming the idea of devolution this idea should have come up. The taskforce that was going round should have made a recommendation in line with this Motion so that before devolution takes

place; there can be technological awareness of counties. This is a very important aspect of consideration. There are times when we get concerned about the things we talk about. We discuss many Motions but no implementation takes place. This is the time. We need to think on how to implement our ideas.

(Loud consultations)

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Order, hon. Senators, please, consult in low tones.

Sen. Karaba: Thank you Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker for that observation. We have passed many Motions but one wonders what will happen after all this exercise is done. I remember in the Ninth Parliament when I was a Member of Kirinyaga Central, I moved a Motion requesting the Government to make sure that all secondary schools introduce computer teaching as a subject. This was passed and as a result of that, very many schools have been connected to power. Probably, that is what has led to the increase of people with added technological skills related to computers.

That notwithstanding, we need now to ask ourselves for how long we should keep on talking. After that talk what happens? Do we have a committee which will sit down and come up with Motions and Bills which have been passed not only in the Senate, but also in the National Assembly, to make sure that they are implemented? This is one of the Motions that should have been passed yesterday.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we have very many Committees moving round. We had one on Education moving round the counties. It will even move to Western Kenya including Kakamega, Kisumu and Bungoma so that we can familiarize ourselves with what happens in those counties and many others. We are about to proceed on recess and I am sure that many other Committees will move out. Some of them will travel outside the country. When they travel outside the country, they visit countries which were in the state in which we are now here in Kenya. I believe that some of them will go to Korea and others to Malaysia, Japan, India, China, Vietnam and so forth. These are the countries which, given their history, have struggled as much as we have, but have taken off very fast. Why is it that Kenya, after 50 years, has not been able to take off? The problem is with us and the perception that we have. Some Members here were Ministers and were challenged by my friend, Prof. "Lepokua" or something like that, that they were unable to---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Order, Sen. Karaba! Did you say "something like that?" The name is Sen. (Prof.) John Lonyangapuo.

Sen. Karaba: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, you know that these names are also very long and are like a sentence

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, we need to be serious in the Senate. When we discuss a Motion or a Bill here, this is the House that will see to it that it is implemented. If such a Motion was implemented during the time my friend, Sen. Obure, was a Minister – and Prof. Lonyangapuo also stated here earlier – we would not be having this problem of discussing every other time about offices. We would be talking about connectivity. How connected are we now to those counties? We are supposed to relate and communicate with them, yet we are very poorly connected. So, this Motion is coming at

the right time and I hope that it will be implemented. If it is implemented, we will be a step further from where we are.

Recently, I was able to sit in a board of directors meeting somewhere. We had posted some invitation in the newspaper that we wanted a managing director of this and that quality. These people were supposed to submit their application by a certain given time or day. But we were surprised that when the time was over, there were still people submitting applications. We agreed to invite one person even if the application was late, to ask him what really had happened. This man was from Turkana. Since we are supposed to advertise in three newspapers which include *The Daily Nation*, *The Standard* and any other newspaper, he told us that they normally get newspapers after a month. If we are going to use newspaper to communicate to people who are that far, so that they can address themselves to the problems that we have in the capital, we will be joking. That is the reason you will hear some of them saying that they are going to Kenya, yet they are still in Kenya. It is because they believe that Turkana is not part of the country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, for us to have the Kenya that we want, the first thing that we should attend to is technology. This is one way of making sure that technology is with the people. Unless we have technology in the counties, where else would you say that technology is? This is an idea that we need to really embrace and marry it with our development. Take the budgets that some county assemblies are passing, for example. Some of them are passing budgets which are very far from reality. They are passing budgets for entertainment, pornography and to study how people are behaving. Surely, why can they not pass budgets to purchase two or three computers or recruit better skilled manpower in those assemblies, so that they can communicate with the Senate, the National Assembly or other counties?

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, the spirit of this Motion is good. It also indicates that the county assemblies cannot be complete without the Senators, because they are the ones who will provide the oversight role. So, this Motion can also be amended to include the office of the Senator at the county level, which should be interlinked with the county assembly, so that as soon as the Senator gets to his or her office, he/she will be able to communicate readily with members of the county assembly, without necessarily travelling very far. This is something that we need not even spend a lot of money on. It will save a lot of our energy and money and even create jobs for our very many unemployed youths. In the end, we will compare ourselves with the Tigers of the South-East Asia. Malaysia, for example, has a capital which is free from paper. It is called e-capital. We were struggling with Malaysia in the 1960s. Why is it that the Asian countries have taken off beyond us, yet we were in the same level at the time of struggle? If you go to Vietnam, South Korea and Malaysia, they are very advanced in terms of their education.

We need to be proud of our country. The pride that we need to have is to make sure that our people are well versed with what we are articulating. What we are articulating here is the spirit of interconnectivity and that can only be done through technology which this Motion is calling for. If we support this Motion, I am sure that we will be better off as a country, than any other time.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Sen. Chiaba: Asante sana, Bw. Spika wa Muda, kwa kunipatia nafasi hii ili niungane pamoja na wenzangu kuzungumza juu ya Hoja ilioko mbele yetu. Vile vile

namushukuru Sen. Kagwe kwa kuleta Hoja hii mapema, kwa sababu ni muhimu sana. Ukiangalia vile tunafanya kazi kama Bunge, Kamati zote zilizoko zinaweza kukaa na kuchunguza Bajeti inayoletwa na Serikali. Vile vile ni muhimu kuwafundisha au kuiambia idara inayohusika kuzifundisha bunge za Kaunti kutumia komputa. Pia ningependekeza kuwa badala ya kutumia Kiingereza watumie lugha ya taifa ili wakija kwa Bunge au Seneti, waweze kufanya mijadala kwa lugha ya taifa. Hiyo ndio njia moja ya kujikomboa kutoka kwa minyororo ya wale waliopita. Sisemi ya kwamba lugha ya Kiingereza ni mbaya, lakini kila mtu hujivunia lugha yake mwenyewe. Ni muhimu kuzipatia bunge za kaunti komputa na kufundishwa kikamilifu, ili waweze pia kuchunguza zile bajeti zinazofanywa na magavana au kamati kuu za magavana, ili watu waone kuwa walichagua bunge za kaunti ambazo zinaangalia maslahi yao.

Vile vile ni muhimu kwa wanahabari walio katika bunge za kaunti na pia wale walio hapa na pia katika Bunge la Kitaifa wawaelimishe watu wasiokuwa katika bunge za kaunti kuhusu kitu gani kinachofanyika katika bunge hizo na maslahi yao yanachukuliwa namna gani. Vile vile, ni muhimu Spika wote wawili wa Seneti na wa Bunge la Kitaifa kufanya kongamano maalumu kuwafundisha maspika wote wa bunge 47 za kaunti ili kuwaelezea njia bora za kuendesha kazi ya bunge hizo.

Kwa hayo machache, Bw. Spika wa Muda, naomba kuunga mkono.

Asante sana, Bw. Spika wa Muda.

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Sen. G.G. Kariuki.

Sen. G.G. Kariuki: Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I also rise to support this Motion which I think is long, long overdue, because these are the areas that we needed to deal with immediately we came to power in a new dispensation. My reason for saying this is that when debate was going on to provide ways and means of implementing the new Constitution or providing operational laws to manage the new Constitution, this country lost some direction. There was a need for people who were to become Members of County Assemblies (MCAs), Senators and Members of Parliament (MPs) to have acquired a good standard of education. But that issue was just politicised and it was laid to rest. We can now see the consequences of what we ought to have done from the beginning. We are now coming here, going round saying "We urge the county governments." The county governments should not be urged by the Senate; it is their responsibility to make sure that their people are trained so that they can understand. That is part of the budget that they should make. It is not for this Senate to direct or advise them on what to do, because they know they are in big problems. Some of the MCAs, as we have been told, may not want to speak in English because they do not know how to. But I do not believe any language can add any intelligence; never! But we need to get the right people because the standard of any language--- I speak several African tribal languages in Kenya, but that does not constitute the fact that I am more knowledgeable than others.

(Laughter)

Language is nothing but memory. So, we have to deal with this situation very, very clearly without pretending that we are advising the county governments. County Governments need to know that they have weaknesses. Instead of them spending a lot of money on entertainment and trips here and there, they need to know what they do not know and they must know. That is the only way we shall be dealing with people who are responsible; people who understand and people who are capable of competing with the

National Assembly and also with the Senate, because these are the type of people we need. I used to advise most people at home who tried to vie to go to the Lower House or the Senate that; “please, I wish I were you; I would start by becoming an MCA because you are young people, you are capable of going up.” But, you see, politics, being the way it is, you have to bring your own friends to support you. You support your own friends, and it does not matter whether he has any knowledge or not; you just want to see him there.

So, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I think this Motion is just to remind us that we have a responsibility and the county governments have a responsibility of making sure that their people understand which direction this country is taking. We have been talking about the Far East and South East Asia; in 1974, Kenya was ahead of Korea and many other countries, including Singapore, but these guys managed the speed of their corruption. But here in this country, we sort of took up corruption as one of our norms. In fact, if you look at one of the books I wrote some years ago, we are almost made to believe that corruption is part of our life; and I think that is the most deadly thing to think about. You cannot have your cake and eat it; you cannot adopt corruption as your main virtue and then think the country will develop; it is not possible!

So, Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I think that if we have to look at this Motion again, we will amend it completely and not leave it as it is, because it is actually asking MCAs to do what they ought to be doing. As I said here before when we were debating almost a similar thing – although not the same Motion – I said that we are not going to take these people anywhere unless we spend a lot of money training them; give them enough training to be able to understand. In fact, what is the new Constitution aiming at? It aims at creating 48 governments, and all these governments are going to be independent in their own way – not that they will secede politically – but the whole idea is to make sure that the entire country will now stop complaining about marginalisation and so many other things that Kenyan politicians like to talk about all the time. Because if you fail and you want some votes in your constituency, and you know that if you start attacking Pokomos, your people will support you, then you immediately venture in that area of attacking Pokomos just for the sake of getting positions! So, I think time has come when we must understand which direction we are taking as the leaders of this country.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, what the honorable Mover has just done is to give us the opportunity to remind us that there are problems that we need to urge the county governments so solve, and this problem is not only in the county governments. Now, we are saying as if it is a major thing that the MCAs have no offices. But you and I know that even Senators do not have offices and, therefore, we are progressing. I think we should not blame ourselves when we start a thing like this because we are all in the process of development.

The estimates being done by MCAs, as mentioned by Sen. Lonyangapuo, that the governor has no business with MCAs which I think is true because you can actually claim they own the county government. These are the only people who can decide which direction the county government should go. There is nowhere in our Constitution that the governor is empowered to do anything in the county assembly. That is why you see conflict between the governor and the speakers because the speaker is now controlling an entire arm of the government which is the County Assembly.

Therefore, the speaker becomes a very important person. The governor will only be responsible for the executive people that were nominated. We cannot claim to be protecting county governments unless the Senate Committee on devolution takes the lead. I think we need to start thinking of constituting a sub-committee of the Committee on Devolution which will be empowered by this House to go round the country so that they can tell us what problems exist in the counties.

We should not just sit here and come up with a small Motion and say that we have discovered a problem here. I think there is need for the Senate Committee on to go around the country and bring a comprehensive report of the problems the county governments are facing. That will give us the opportunity to think wisely and to take decisions other than just providing them with offices. Democracy is a very expensive exercise and, therefore, we need to provide the MCAs with money to buy vehicles. We will have to give them a grant like we are doing in the Senate and the National Assembly so that they have their own vehicles. Again, they need offices. These people are operating in very difficult situations.

In the process of understanding the problem of county governments, we should also try as much as possible to understand other problems which maybe bothering them because there is going to be a lot of crisis in the years to come. Between now and June, you will find conflicts between governors, speakers and the MCAs. We have to arrest that situation before it comes and that can only be effectively done by the Committee on Devolution.

Therefore, I want to urge this Senate to think beyond what we are talking about here. That route can only be followed by the Committee on Devolution which is capable of producing the kind of report we might want to see. I do not want to talk too much about these things because it is very clear and we are only advising the county government. We are not even urging them because they know it is their problem. It is like telling somebody to wear a shirt and a tie.

Thanks a lot.

Sen. Obure: Mr. Temporary Speaker, thank you for allowing me to make a few remarks in support of this Motion. This is a very important Motion, well thought out and was very effectively and eloquently presented by my friend from Nyeri, Sen. Kagwe and also very ably seconded by the Senator for Nyamira, Sen. Okong'o. The objective of devolution is to improve and make the lives of citizens better. This will be done through enhancing service delivery and indeed improving the quality of service provided to the citizens in every county. It will be done through enhancing accountability in the manner in which resources are utilized. It would be done overall by improving governance at all levels.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I strongly believe that the role of the MCA will be central and will be critical in achieving these ideals. We must, therefore, support MCAs and give them space to play their role fully. Unfortunately, many people still think and see MCAs as councillors and I think this is very unfortunate. They should not be equated to councillors of yesteryears. These are people who will play a very important role because they are close to the people and interact with people on a daily basis. Therefore, they will be helping the Government both at the county and national level to enable citizens understand government programmes better. Today, they represent areas much bigger than councillors used to represent. The population in their wards is much bigger.

The education requirements of a MCA are much higher today. As a result we see lawyers, engineers, medical doctors and other professionals sitting in our assemblies. These are serious people who need to be recognized and supported. Their roles are also much wider today. The MCAs will be involved in the process of budget-making, making laws in their assemblies and also oversight activities. They will be holding the county executive accountable. They are the ones who are going to ensure that the governors and the county executive committee members are accountable to the people in discharging their responsibilities and that they operate within acceptable limits. This role is going to be played by MCA.

It is for this reason that I want to agree with the spirit of this Motion that MCAs need to be facilitated in every possible way. We must enable them to acquire knowledge through properly designed programmes, which will enable them to enhance their capacity as individuals. Once their capacity is enhanced, they will be able to discharge their functions more effectively. We must organize workshops and interactions between county assembly members and other groups including the Senate itself. Let us interact with them and exchange views with them. Let us organize meetings between them and Members of the National Assembly and, indeed, with other professionals so that they can better understand their role and the expectations of their citizens in the respective areas that they represent. We must equip them with computers and train them on the use of various ICT gadgets, among other things. This will enhance their performance and improve levels of governance all round.

We must also enable them to move around in their respective areas. Today, we enjoy the privilege of cars which have been provided to us through grants. I do not see why this should not be extended to members of county assemblies. I think they should also enjoy this facility. If we properly organized and budgeted for it, it would allow them to perform better and interact with their constituents more effectively. It will also enable them supervise projects and carry out their oversight roles more effectively.

I had the privilege of serving as Minister for Public Works. Indeed, hon. Lonyangapuo was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry at that time. In preparation for devolution to take off, we saw the need for putting up facilities in each county. So, we went out and mapped areas. We realized that in some counties, it was absolutely necessary to put up these facilities. Some areas were better endowed than others. Our view was that counties should be enabled to start from the same position once devolution commenced. We thought of putting up standard offices for the governor and his executive in all the counties. This was housing for the governor, his deputy and so on. We designed standard chambers in all counties and also provided offices for county assembly members precisely in response to what this Motion is asking for today. We felt that this was necessary.

Unfortunately, what we envisaged at the time was not to be. It was not possible to do it. However, members of county assemblies need offices. It is not acceptable to see them operating from their village houses. It is not acceptable to see them operating from their cars, hotels, tea rooms and bars. This is not right. Therefore, I support the proposal that members of county assemblies be facilitated to have decent offices from which they can discharge their assignments and in the process serve their citizens more effectively. I also support the proposal to have media centres in each county. The media is a very important player in the development of this country. They inform and educate the general

public. In fact, the media leads in formulating public opinion. The media are playing a central role in the development of this country. However, if you go out to various counties, you will not find a place that you can meet them. The idea of having media centres in each county is something we, in the Senate, should seriously think about and support.

I want, once again, to thank Sen. Kagwe for his initiative of bringing this Motion here. I think it is a very important Motion. I urge my colleagues, Members of the Senate, to support it.

I support.

Sen. Melly: Thank you Mr. Temporary Speaker for giving me this chance to make my contribution on this very important Motion. First, this country is in transition. We are moving from analogue to a digital way of doing things. I also appreciate the fact that we are in a digital government.

The success of our county assemblies is the success of this Senate. This is because most of the work that is done today by our county assemblies sums up what the Senate is supposed to do. Yes, we are supposed to protect the interests of the counties and county assembly members who are supposed to make laws that will make or effect functions of county governments according to the Constitution. Therefore, we should empower our county assembly members through training them and ensuring that they have the capacity to use computers which are the main instruments used in ICT. We should also train them to know the importance of using these tools in expediting legislation in counties to effect functions as given by the Constitution.

County assembly members should be encouraged to go to school. One typical example is my county. A good number of county assembly members have enrolled in Moi University and Mount Kenya Universities campuses which are situated in Eldoret Town. Every evening, after they have had their sessions, they go to class. A good number of them have registered so that as they progress in making laws, they will have the capacity to deal with issues as they arise because they will have the skills and the knowledge.

This country is changing very fast. If county assemblies will not deal with major advances in technology, they will not perform their functions because technology has been changing every day. There are advancements on a daily basis in this sector. If county assembly members do not have knowledge on the use of computers --- In fact, the use of computers is also changing; this is very alarming. If we are to achieve our goals as the Senate, then our county assembly members must be trained to cope with the change in technology as brought by time. If our counties incorporate ICT functions, then there will be accrued advantages such as expediting of the legislative process. Motions can be debated very well and achieve very good results. This would bring about quality output and hence development in various sectors of the counties.

The national Government should take this issue seriously because it has set out clearly its manifesto and wants to implement it, so that Kenyans can feel that they actually voted for the right Government. But if our county assemblies, which form part of this Government, do not have the skills and knowledge to handle their job, then it means that some of our agenda may not be achieved. But if we empower our counties, especially the county assembly members, by providing capacity in terms of human resource and facilities such as computers and other things which are needed, I believe that this country

will change. Credit will always come to this House because we are charged with the job of ensuring that devolution succeeds.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, I look forward to all the Members supporting this Motion that seeks to equip our counties, so that they perform better. This will ensure that we achieve our common agenda, fight poverty and have development.

Mr. Temporary Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support.

Sen. Hassan: Asante sana, Bw. Spika wa Muda. Kama vile wenzangu walioongea mbele yangu walivyofanya, mimi pia naunga mkono Hoja hii.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, nakubaliana na Seneta wa Laikipia, Bw. G.G Kariuki, kwamba vile tunazihimiza serikali za kaunti zifadhili au zilete hali hii ya maendeleo kwa kuwapa uwezo wabunge katika bunge za Kaunti kuweza kutekeleza majukumu yao, huu kwa ukweli ni ushauri. Sisi tunawahimiza kuwa ni lazima waweke misingi na mikakati kwa vile hakuna namna. Kenya imepiga hatua katika mawasiliano na pale ambapo hatujapiga hatua ni lazima tupige hatua katika mawasiliano kama hayo. Kwa mfano, katika Chumba hiki ambamo tunakutana kama Seneti, ni lazima tuweke vifaa vya kisasa ambavyo vitaweza kuturahisishia sisi kuendeleza ratiba ya Seneti, mabunge ya kaunti na Bunge la Taifa.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, jambo la muhimu ni kuhakikisha kwamba Kenya inaenda mbio na sambamba na maendeleo ya teknolojia katika ulimwengu mzima. Kama Kenya inataka kwenda mbele tunafaa kujenga misingi ya mabunge yetu katika kaunti, ili yaweze kutekeleza zile huduma na kuwasiliana na kuleta mikakati ambayo italetu maendeleo katika kaunti zetu.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, kwa mfano, leo hatuna haja tena ya kupewa *Order Papers* kila siku. Kila wakati ukiingia katika Chumba hiki unapewa karatasi. Tunaweza kuwa na teknolojia ambayo itahakikisha kuwa ukiingia hapa unabonyeza kidude kisha unaona *Order Paper*. Wakati kuna haja ya kuibadilisha, ofisi ya Katibu wa Seneti anaweza kuweka mabadiliko hayo na unayapata papo hapo. Natumahi kuwa lile Chumba la Seneti ambalo linajengwa limewekwa vifaa kama hivyo ili kuhakikisha kuwa tunaweza kupata teknolojia na kuitumia. Hii inafaa kuwa ratiba katika Bunge letu la taifa na pia mabunge yetu ya kaunti. Kwa hivyo hakuna haja ya kubebana na makaratasi kila wakati. Nikija hapa nataka kubonyeza kitu na kujua kuwa hii ndio ratiba, hii ndio Miswada itakayokuja saa nane na hapa ndipo tumefikia na kukomea. Hata nimewaona wenzetu kutoka kwa ofisi ya Katibu wa Seneti wamefurahi kwa sababu hawataki mambo ya *photocopy* kila wakati. Tunafaa kuweka hatua kama hizo.

Bw. Spika wa Muda, pili, katika ushauri huu sisi pia kama Seneti ni lazima tutoe mwongozo, kama vile Bw. Obure alisema. Tunafaa kuwa na *master-plan* ambayo itatoa mwongozo kuwa lazima mabunge yote ya kaunti yawe na viwango fulani katika majengo yao na ofisi zao, ili yaweze kuendeleza ratiba zao. Kama kweli tunaamini ugatuzi, ni lazima tuweke kiwango cha juu cha---

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Order, Sen. Omar! You still have six minutes. You can continue from there tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Speaker (Sen. Murkomen): Hon. Senators, it is now time to interrupt the business of the Senate. This House is, therefore, adjourned until this afternoon, at 2.30 p.m.

The Senate rose at 12.30 p.m.